

DDA 76-4346

30 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Science & Technology
Assistant to the Director
Comptroller
General Counsel
Inspector General
Legislative Counsel

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Information and Privacy Staff
Weekly Report

The continuing senior interest in our administration of both the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act is such that I believe it might be helpful if addressees received a copy of the weekly report made to me by the Chief, Information and Privacy Staff, DDA. The first such report is attached. I propose to send these regularly to your attention unless you indicate to me they serve no useful purpose.

STATINTL

John F. Blake

Att

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Orig - DDI w/cy Att ~~1~~ - DDA Subject w/att
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27 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

STATINTL FROM : [REDACTED]
Chief, Information and Privacy Staff

SUBJECT : IPS Weekly Report (20-27 August)

1. The Week in Review

	<u>20-26 August</u>	<u>1976 Average Week</u>
a. New cases logged	51	72.9
b. Cases closed	67	83.0
c. Appeals logged	6	6.9
d. Appeals closed	1	4.0
e. Manpower (man-weeks)	91.5	88.8

2. Spotlighted Requests

a. Assoc. Prof. Frederick P. Bunnell, Vassar College, requested copies of all CIA documents pertaining to Indonesia which were provided to the Senate Select Committee by the Agency during the course of the Committee's investigation of the CIA. Professor Bunnell, who is preparing a book on US-Indonesian relations, has previously submitted numerous requests for the mandatory classification review of CIA records held by the Presidential Libraries. This is his first request to the Agency, however, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

b. Theodore R. Grevers, a private detective from Grand Rapids, Michigan, asked for access to all CIA files concerning the downing of a PB4Y-1 on 8 April 1950 in the Baltic Sea, about 37 miles from Libau, Latvia.

c. Flying saucers are always a popular topic for requesters. This week, requests were received from Brad C. Sparks of Berkeley, California, who asked for OSI's subject file on UFOs, and from Dolores Tomashevskaya of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, who requested specific documents related to CIA's interest in investigations of the phenomena. Mr. Sparks has been in frequent contact with us in the past. We have had only two previous letters from Ms. Tomashevskaya, who is affiliated with the Wisconsin Division of an organization known as "Ground Saucer Watch."

d. Requests for records dealing with CIA experimentation with drugs as a means of behavior control were received from Dr. Jerone Stephens, Bowling Green State University, and Ginger Dyal, San Mateo, California. Both would like copies of the documents previously released to John D. Marks in connection with an FOIA appeal.

3. Spotlighted Responses

a. An interim reply to Jack Anderson's PA request was sent to Mr. Anderson's attorney, William A. Dobrovir. This is the second partial response. The first increment, which was comprised of the surveillance logs compiled by the Agency in monitoring Anderson's movements, was sent several weeks ago. Inasmuch as there has been no mention of this material in Anderson's column as yet, it must be assumed that he is waiting until processing of his request is completed before exploiting its rather considerable news potential. The documents included in our latest reply were, by comparison, innocuous.

b. Two requesters were provided copies of ADP-related contracts negotiated by the Agency. Donald L. Poling, ITEL Corporation, obtained a copy of Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. XG-4301 with IBM; and Maurice B. Lewis, Federal Leasing, Inc., was given a copy of Contract No. XG-4512 with Comdisco, Inc., covering the rental of IBM disk drives.

c. In partial response to a request from Morton Halperin, a letter of agreement between the CIA and Arnold & Porter regarding remuneration for the legal services of Mitchell Regovin was sent to Halperin's attorney, William A. Dobrovir. The search is continuing for additional records concerning attorney fee retainers which may be responsive to the request.

d. Fred Graham, CBS News, was provided copies of four documents responsive to his PA request. One of them was a report of an interview, dated 16 December 1952, by an Agency recruiter when Mr. Graham was attending Yale University.

e. Fifteen documents concerning US actions with respect to countering Soviet influence in the Congo--nine of them sanitized--were released to Madeleine G. Kalb, wife of newsman Marvin Kalb. Eleven cables were denied in their entirety.

4. Analysis

a. During the three-week period, 6-26 August, 24 FOIA, PA and EO appeals were received by the Agency, whereas only 14 appeals were closed out. As of cob 26 August, our appeals backlog totaled 176 cases--an alltime high. The average response time far exceeds the 20 working days stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act for FOIA appeals. For example, the one final appeal response sent out during the current reporting period was to an appeal received last February.

b. The request backlog was reduced by a modest 15 cases during the past week. The closed cases included one request withdrawn by the requester, two requests canceled because of the failure of the requesters to provide additional identifying information, and 12 requests canceled because of the requesters' failure to send advance fee payments. For CY 1976, we have now closed out 344 more requests than we have logged.

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c. Messrs. [REDACTED] attended a meeting, held at CIA Headquarters on 25 August, with FOI/PA officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Secret Service. This was the second such get-together, and the next meeting is scheduled for 27 September, with DEA as the host agency.

During the course of the meeting, an FBI representative disclosed that the Bureau had been instructed by a Congressional committee to devise a plan for eliminating the FOI/PA request backlog (now in excess of 8,000 cases) so as to be operating on a current basis within one year. The plan, as yet not approved, calls for nearly doubling the size of FBI's permanent staff. (The Bureau now has an FOI/PA staff T/O of

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220, with 202 persons actually on board.) In addition, numerous agents will be detailed to Headquarters from various field offices for 2-3 month tours to work on backlogged requests, supplementing the efforts of the augmented permanent staff. The estimated cost of the year's crash program is \$10 million, and, if implemented, the Congress will be asked for a supplemental appropriation.

In the past, the Agency's backlog of approximately 1,200 cases and the ensuing delays in answering requests have been largely overlooked by critics. Our difficulties were dwarfed by those of the FBI, and it was the Bureau that was pointed out as the agency disregarding the mandate of the law. If the FBI's plan is implemented, however, and the organization is able to become current within one year, the critics in Congress and elsewhere may then turn their attention to the CIA's deficiencies in providing timely responses to requests from the public. The resources which might then have to be diverted to FOI/PA activities could very well cause an impingement of other, more basic, CIA programs.

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